to check pace of deforestation in the country, which include:—

1. The National Forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from illicit felling, grazing, fires and encroachment.

2. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.

3. A centrally sponsored scheme is under implementation to help the States to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.

4. Alternatives sources of energy are encouraged to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture etc.

6. Import policy for timber has been liberalised.

7. Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.

8. Guidelines have been issued to State/UT Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guide lines are as follows:—

(i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such felling are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to area not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To ban fellings in the hills above 1000 meters, at least for some years.

(iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) To set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection area like wildlife sancturies, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

(v) Special guidelines have been issued for regulation of Saw mills.

Pollution caused by Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Namrup, Assam

2307. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Hindustan Fertililers Corporation at Namrup, Assam has not taken any air and water pollution control measures;

(b) whether the entire Borhat and its neighbouring areas are affected due to air pollution;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Head Office, in Delhi is regularly releasing rupees two crores for the Namrup unit for DCDA system to control pollution and the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation authorities at Namrup are hoodwinking all by not executing the system; and

(d) what measures are contemplated by Government to control pollution and save the affected area from total collapse?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited at Namrup, Assam has taken measures for control of air and water polution.

(b) Only at times of power failure or during start-up of processes there are 'spurts' in gaseous emissions. However, these are brought under control immediately.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Assam State Pollution Control Board has directed the unit to

upgrade and improve its existing treatment system. These include:—

(i) Installation of urea hydrolyzer

(ii) Installation of second DCDA process

(iii) Change-over to non-arsenic system

(iv) Improvement of the operation and design of the existing chromate removal plant.

(v) Strict control on effluent and emission treatment and discharge. The unit has already initiated steps in this regard.

Interviews for directors in Public Sector Undertakings

2308. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2150 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from Members of Parliament and others about the unfair mode of selection and interviews being adopted by Public Enterprises Selection Board for Board-level positions in Public Sector Enterprises, some of which related to the interviews held by the PESB in June, 1990;

(b) whether the PESB had granted interviews to persons in month of June, 1990 who had either not successfully completed their period of probation or had serious complaints against their candidature for the post of Chief Executives; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. A telegram was received from Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharjee, MP, alleging that no advertisements were issued for filling up of the vacancy of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, British India Corporation and that only junior level officers were called for the interview fixed on the 20th June, 1990.

(b) No, Sir. Out of the 10 persons invited to meet the Board on the 20th June, 1990, two were full-time Directors in the British India Corporation, two more were Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of National Textiles Corporation subsidiaries, five were senior executives from the private sector with experience relevant to the British India Corporation and one was the Joint Managing Director of U.P. State Spinning Mills. All the candidates were eligible to be called *as per the established procedure.*

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, the question does not aries.

Commutation of pension

2309. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commutation value of the pension is granted on the commutation table of 1971 which is based on the then prevailing 4.7 per cent rate of interest and the mortality rate then prevalent,

(b) whether it is a fact that since thereafter both the rate of interest and the life expectancy have increased substantially;

(c) whether it is a fact that on the one hand commutation now payable is actually a sum total of approximately ten and a half years but on the other hand it is resorted to only after 15 years of the commutation, thereby recovery in advance is made for four and a half years which is approximately one third of the total amount of commutation by way of interest etc.; and

(d) if the answer to parts (a) to